(c) The Integrated Textile Parks would, *inter alia,* provide modernized weaving/knitting/processing/garmenting facilities of international standards so as to make Indian textiles competitive in international markets.

(d) The Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP) has been launched by merging the Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS) and the Apparel Parks for Exports Scheme (APES).

(e) The main reasons for merger of the TCIDS and APES, *inter alia,* include:—

- Lack of progress in implementation of approved projects.
- Since the structure of the scheme depended heavily on the initiative and resources of State Governments, projects could not be formulated in certain crucial clusters whereas there have been quite a few proposals from relatively unimportant clusters.
- In many cases, there was no involvement of the industry at the planning and implementation stages.
- Shortage of resources with the State Governments to provide advance money as required under the scheme.
- Protracted delays in acquisition/purchase of land.
- Funding was totally based on Government of India subsidy; virtually no effort was made for leveraging of market funds to address the infrastructure needs comprehensively.

Contribution to EPF

†*474. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many industrial institutions and firms are facing criminal charges on account of not making payment of employee's contribution to the Employees Provident Fund;

(b) if so, the details of such firms and institutions together with the amount not subsribed by them;

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) whether it is also a fact that some Government officers are in collusion with the defaulting firms, and if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) As on 31.3.2005, the number of establishments covered under the Employees' Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, was 4.08 lakhs. The number of complaints filed and pending with police authorities against such defaulters, who were deducting the employees' share but not remitting to EPFO was 6493 as on 31.3.2005. The cumulative amount outstanding from the defaulting establishments, including employees' share was Rs. 2144.82 crore as on 31.3.2005.

(c) Recovery of dues is made in accordance with the provisions of the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952. This includes prosecution under section 14 of the Act, filing of complaints under section 406/409 of IPC, attachment of properties/bank accounts and arrest of defaulters.

(d) No, Sir. No such incidence has been reported.

Review of Indo-Singapore Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement

*475. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Singapore reviewed the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement to identify the areas in which the two countries can improve bilateral trade and investment flow;

(b) if so, the points discussed during the meeting held on March 4, 2006;

(c) whether all issues have been settled; and

(d) to what extent Indo-Singapore agreement relating to trade in goods, services and investment has been finalized?